

CD 2006--73



Wednesday, November 1, 2006
12:10 pm, Walter Hall

Faculty of Music
Presents

LECTURE BY JAMES MACMILLAN
Michael and Sonja Koerner Distinguished Visitor in Composition

Presentation of the Distinguished Visitor Award to James MacMillan



LECTURE
"Music, Modernity and the Sacred"

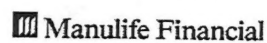
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JAMES MACMILLAN read music at Edinburgh University and took Doctoral studies in composition at Durham University with John Casken. After working as a lecturer at Manchester University, he returned to Scotland and settled in Glasgow. The successful premiere of *Tryst* at the 1990 St Magnus Festival led to his appointment as Affiliate Composer of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Between 1992 and 2002 he was Artistic Director of the Philharmonia Orchestra's *Music of Today* series of contemporary music concerts. MacMillan is internationally active as a conductor and in 2000 was appointed Composer/Conductor with the BBC Philharmonic. He was awarded a CBE in January 2004.

In addition to *The Confession of Isobel Gowdie*, which launched MacMillan's international career at the BBC Proms in 1990, his orchestral output includes the percussion concerto *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*, premiered by Evelyn Glennie in 1992 and which has since received over 300 performances and has been programmed by leading international orchestras and conductors including the New York Philharmonic under Leonard Slatkin, the Philadelphia Orchestra under Andrew Davis, and the Detroit Symphony under Neeme Järvi. MacMillan's music has been programmed extensively at international music festivals, including the Edinburgh Festival in 1993, the Bergen Festival in 1997, the South Bank Centre's 1997 Raising Sparks festival in London devoted to his music, and the Queensland Biennial in 1999. A documentary film portrait of MacMillan by Robert Bee was screened on ITV's South Bank Show in January 2003.

Works by MacMillan also include *Seven Last Words from the Cross* for chorus and string orchestra, screened on BBC TV during Holy Week 1994, *Inés de Castro*, premiered by Scottish Opera and toured to Porto in 2001, a triptych of orchestral works commissioned by the London Symphony Orchestra: *The World's Ransoming*, a Cello Concerto for Mstislav Rostropovich, and *Symphony: 'Vigil'* premiered under the baton of Rostropovich in 1997, and *Quickening* for The Hilliard Ensemble, chorus and orchestra, co-commissioned by the BBC Proms and the Philadelphia Orchestra. MacMillan's *Symphony No.2* was commissioned by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and premiered in 1999, and his first score for the BBC Philharmonic, *The Birds of Rhiannon*, received its first performance at the 2001 BBC Proms in London.

In terms of recordings, the Koch Schwann disc of *The Confession of Isobel Gowdie* and *Tryst* won the 1993 Gramophone Contemporary Music Record of the Year Award, and the BMG recording of *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel* won the 1993 Classic CD Award for Contemporary Music. A second recording of *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel* has been released on the Naxos label, featuring Colin Currie. A series of MacMillan discs on the BIS label has to date included the complete *Triduum* conducted by Osmo Vänskä, the clarinet concerto *Ninian*, the trumpet concerto *Epiclesis*, *Symphony No.2*, and music for string quartet. Other acclaimed recordings include a choral collection including *Mass* on Hyperion. Recent releases include *Raising Sparks* on Black Box, *The Birds of Rhiannon* on Chandos, and a second recording of *The Confession of Isobel Gowdie* on BIS.

Recent MacMillan works include *A Deep but Dazzling Darkness* for solo violin and large ensemble, co-commissioned by the London Symphony Orchestra and the Saratoga Chamber Music Festival, and *Symphony No.3: Silence*, co-commissioned by BBC/NHK and premiered in Tokyo in April 2003. In season 2004-05 MacMillan's organ concerto, *A Scotch Bestiary*, will be commissioned by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the Philadelphia Orchestra will give the US premiere of his *Symphony No.3: Silence*. Future works have been commissioned by the Minnesota Orchestra and Welsh National Opera.